

of the still lost smaller weasel of Egypt, the status of which has been already discussed by Mr. Oldfield Thomas*. The original description, which is in Latin, is rather peculiar, and interesting enough to merit reproduction here. It runs as follows:—"Quarta *Mustelinorum* forma *Mustelæ vulgari* admodum affinis est. In itinere *Mustelæ subpalmatæ* nomine eam distinximus, digiti enim membrana latius conjuncti erant, statura minor. In domibus ægyptiacis Cahiræ et Alexandria murium vulgaris socius. *Ælurum* (αἴλουρον) non hanc, sed *Felæm Bubastis* cum *F. maniculata* fuisse serius docebo."]

IV.—*On Squirrels of the Sciurus MacClellandi Group.*

By J. L. BONHOTE.

FROM a close and careful examination of a large series of skins of this species from India and China it seems to me that the following races may be easily distinguished. The most noticeable feature of the group is their variability in a very small area, and it will be seen that there are no less than three forms to be found in the province of Fokien, China, and specimens of all three kinds may be obtained within an easy radius of one place, namely Kuantun. At first I was inclined to regard it as an instance of polymorphism, but a further investigation has satisfied me that such is not the case. In the first place, the differences between the three forms are constant and there is little or no variation among themselves; secondly, one form (*Swinhoei*) is apparently different in habits, being never found amongst the tall conifers, as is the habit of all the other races, but being always found on the ground and among low scrub. With regard to the other two forms, the typical locality of the one is Foochow, on the sea-coast, and of the other Ching Feng Ling, a village about 2000 feet up in the mountains; that they should both be found at Kuantun is not surprising, since Kuantun† is a village halfway up a high mountain, and it may well be that the form which inhabits the valley should be different from that found at a greater altitude. Of the Indian races there is nothing much to be said; those from Tenasserim and the Straits Settlements are, as might be expected, much brighter than those from the north, while specimens from Manipur show a very interesting intermediate stage.

* P. Z. S. 1895, pp. 128-131.

† O. Thomas, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1898, p. 769.

Sciurus MacClellandi typicus, Horsf.

Sciurus MacClellandi, Horsf. P. Z. S. 1839, p. 152; Blyth, J. A. S. B. xvi. p. 875; id. Cat. p. 107; Jerdon, Mamm. p. 173.

Sciurus Pembertoni, Blyth, J. A. S. B. xi. p. 857; id. J. A. S. B. xvi. p. 875.

General colour above yellowish brown. Median dorsal stripe from the nape to the root of the tail black, on each side of which is a lighter stripe hardly distinguishable from the colour of the neck, succeeded by another of a darker shade. The outer dark stripes are bordered by two narrow yellowish ones, which start from the nose and, passing under the eye and ear, continue as far as the root of the tail. Underparts yellowish grey.

Measurements (skin):—

Head and body 131 millim.; tail 90.

Skull: greatest length 35; basal length 26; zygomatic breadth 21; length of nasals 10.

Hab. Nepal, Sikkim, Bootan, and Assam.

Sciurus MacClellandi manipurensis, subsp. n.

Sciurus MacClellandi, Thos. P. Z. S. 1886, p. 61.

This form differs from the foregoing by being much lighter in general coloration. All the stripes are clearer and more distinct, especially the outermost light stripes, which are very pale and well marked. The underparts are also paler. The tail seems to be rather longer.

Dimensions of type (from skin):—

Head and body 120 millim.; tail 100.

Hab. Manipur.

Type B.M. 85. 8. 1. 273. Aimole, Manipur. Presented by Mr. A. O. Hume.

Sciurus MacClellandi maritimus, subsp. n.

This is the form which most nearly approaches the typical *Sc. MacClellandi*, from which it differs in being far greyer and more concolorous. The median dorsal stripe is by no means well marked and very short, *not* being continued to the root of the tail. The two subdorsal stripes are of the same colour as the back, while the outermost light stripes are of a dull white, very narrow and short, *not* being continued to the root of the tail, and only starting at the shoulder.

Measurement of type (from skin):—

Head and body 140 millim.; tail 95; hind foot 31; ear 12.

Skull: zygomatic breadth 21; length of nasals 10.

Hab. Foochow, province of Fokien, China.

Type B.M. 94. 9. 1. 11. Foochow, April 1893. Collected and presented by Mr. C. B. Rickett.

This is apparently a form inhabiting the coast and low ground. It is found also at Tingchow and Kuatun.

Sciurus MacClellandi monticolus, subsp. n.

Brighter than the preceding subspecies, to which it is most nearly allied, and from which it differs in having the median dorsal stripe more distinct and always continued to the root of the tail. The outermost light stripes are very broad and distinct and continued to the root of the tail.

Measurements of type (from skin):—

Head and body 132 millim.; tail 109; hind foot 31.

Skull: greatest length 37; basal length 29; zygomatic breadth 23; length of nasals 10.5.

Hab. Ching Feng Ling*, 2000 feet.

Type B.M. 97. 3. 2. 6. Ching Feng Ling, Fokien, Dec. 1896. Collected and presented by Mr. C. B. Rickett.

There are also specimens from Kuatun, Fokien, and Chinteh, Anhua.

Sciurus MacClellandi Swinhoei, Milne-Edw.

Sciurus MacClellandi Swinhoei, Milne-Edwards, Rech. des Mamm. p. 308 (1874).

Easily distinguishable by having three black dorsal stripes. The whole animal is much brighter than any of the other Chinese races. The subdorsal stripes are distinctly lighter than the colour of the neck; the outer light stripes are very broad and well marked, with a tendency to join the subocular cheek-stripe over the shoulders.

Hab. Province of Moupin, China.

Specimens in the British Museum are from Ching Feng Ling, Peling, and Kuatun. This form differs also in habits, being found on the ground or in low scrub, whereas the other forms are especially partial to tall trees, rarely descending to the ground.

Sciurus MacClellandi formosanus, subsp. n.

This form, which inhabits the islands of Foochow and Hainan, is simply the insular variety of *Sc. MacClellandi maritimus*. It differs from this form in being darker, the

* Ching Feng Ling is situated 100 miles north-west of Foochow.

general tone being of a dull reddish brown. The stripes are all very short and indistinct, and hardly distinguishable towards the root of the tail. The subocular stripe is very dusky and indistinct. The underparts are of a dark yellowish grey.

Measurements (from skin) :—

Head and body 130 millim. ; tail 90.

Hab. Formosa.

Type B.M. 62. 12. 24. 18. N. Formosa, April 1862. Collected and presented by Mr. Robert Swinhoe.

There are also specimens of this race from Hainan.

Sciurus MacClellandi Barbei, Blyth.

Sciurus Barbei, Blyth, J. A. S. B. xvi. p. 875 ; Thos. P. Z. S. 1886, p. 71.

Specimens from Tenasserim and Upper Burmah are conspicuously different from all the other forms ; they most nearly approach *Sc. MacClellandi manipurensis*, from Manipur, the ground-colour of these two forms being similar and much lighter than in all the other races. *Sc. MacClellandi Barbei* may be, however, at once distinguished by the very broad and conspicuous outer light stripes, which are continuous with the suborbital light stripe, and are clear and distinct to the root of the tail. The three dark stripes on the back are black, broad, and well marked ; the sub-lorsal light stripes are also bright and distinct. The underparts are bright ferruginous.

Hab. Upper Burmah.

In some specimens the yellow of the outer light stripes is replaced by a delicate salmon-pink.

Sciurus MacClellandi leucotis (Temm.).

Tamias leucotis, Temm. Zool. sur la Côte de Guinée, 1853, p. 252.

Closely allied to the preceding form, from which it differs in having all the stripes considerably narrower and with a tendency to disappear before reaching the tail. The hair on the tips of the ears is long and white to its base, whereas in *Sc. MacClellandi Barbei* its basal half is black.

Hab. Malacca Peninsula.

The three specimens which I have referred to this subspecies all came from Perak, and although Temminck's description does not quite agree with the specimens before me, there can be little doubt that it is the squirrel to which he alludes. The most noticeable point about this form is the white ears, agreeing therefore with Temminck's specimens.

All the individuals at hand have most distinctly the three dark bands black, and not only the centre one as stated in the description; but, except for that point, the description agrees fairly well with the specimens.

Sciurus MacClellandi Rodolphi (Milne-Edwards).

Sciurus Rodolphi, M.-Edw. Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1867, xix. p. 227; id. Rech. Mamm. 1871, p. 162.

This is the last race which we shall have to consider; it is allied to the Tenasserim specimens, but the hairs of all the dark stripes are tipped with brown. The four light stripes are of equal size and intensity, but the subdorsal ones have a slight tinge of pink. The underparts are ferruginous.

Hab. Cochin China.

Key to Species.

One black stripe.

Four light stripes equally bright *S. MacClellandi Rodolphi*.

Two outer light stripes much brighter than subdorsal.

Light stripe continuous with subocular.

General colour suffused with yellowish *S. MacClellandi typicus*.

Lighter, greyer, stripes distinct *S. MacClellandi manipurensis*.

Light stripe not continuous with subocular.

Outer light stripe broad *S. MacClellandi monticolus*.

Outer light stripe narrow and short.

General colour greyish *S. MacClellandi maritimus*.

Darker, general colour reddish brown *S. MacClellandi formosanus*.

Three black stripes.

Light stripes broad; hair of ears black at base.

Light stripe continuous with subocular. *S. MacClellandi Barbei*.

Light stripe not continuous with subocular. *S. MacClellandi Swinhoei*.

Light stripes narrow; hair of ear white at base *S. MacClellandi leucotis*.

V.—*Descriptions of Two new Atherinoid Fishes from Mexico.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

Chirostoma lucius.

Depth of body $4\frac{1}{3}$ to 5 times in total length, length of head * $3\frac{1}{3}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$. Head large, pike-like, with the lower jaw projecting; teeth small; vomer toothless; snout pointed, $1\frac{1}{2}$

* The projecting lower jaw is not included in the length of the head.